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5 Marines at Vienna embassy recalled

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Four U.S. Marine security guards have been relieved of duty at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna for alleged unauthorized social contacts with East bloc women in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria, the Pentagon said yesterday.

A fifth Marine guard in Vienna also has been recalled under suspicion of violating embassy security.

The latest disclosures bring to nine the number of Marine security guards implicated in the sex and espionage scandal at U.S. embassies abroad.

"Four of the five Marines who are in Frankfurt were assigned to embassies in Warsaw Pact countries prior to going to Vienna," Robert Sims, the chief Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

Two served in Czechoslovakia, one in Hungary and one in Bulgaria, Mr. Sims said.

He said one of the alleged infractions occurred at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria; two in Prague, Czechoslovakia; and one in Budapest, Hungary.

The Pentagon also announced yesterday that the Navy wants to give lie-detector tests to Marine embassy guards in the future.

On a related point, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger criticized U.S. officials responsible for allowing the Soviets to locate a new embassy complex on one of the highest points in Washington.

Mr. Weinberger, in a television interview, also said married Marines may be sent to replace embassy security guards as a security precaution. Under current rules, Marine guards must be single men in their early 20s.

Mr. Sims said a sixth Marine stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Vienna has been ordered home to testify at a military hearing set for today in the espionage case of Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, a former Moscow and Vienna embassy guard arrested in December on suspicion of spying for the Kremlin.

None of the latest Marine guard suspects has been charged and no names have been released.

The decision to replace the five Marine guards was made by Ronald S. Lauder, U.S. ambassador to Austria, Mr. Sims said, noting that other Marine guards would be sent to Vienna as replacements.

A second Marine guard, Cpl. Arnold Bracy, was charged with espionage last month in connection with Sgt. Lonetree.

The two guards allegedly collaborated in a scheme last year to allow Soviet agents inside secured areas of the Moscow embassy. Both Marines are being held in solitary confinement at the Marine base in Quantico, Va.

On Monday, a military magistrate ordered Sgt. John Weirick, a third Marine suspected of spying, held in solitary confinement at Camp Pendleton, Calif., pending his expected transfer to Quantico this week, Marine spokesman Lt. Col. John Shotwell said.

Sgt. Weirick has been held since last week on suspicion of spying for the Soviets in 1981 and 1982 while stationed as a guard at the U.S. consulate in Leningrad.

Col. Shotwell said at the present time none of the Marines recalled from Vienna are suspected of spying. Their return was prompted by a Naval Investigative Service probe that uncovered "possible violations of State Department fraternization regulations." The fifth Marine was relieved of duty for allegedly violating "local security regulations at the embassy," he said, without specifying.

The Marines came under suspicion as an indirect outgrowth of the Lonetree case, Col. Shotwell said.

Administration officials have said Sgts. Lonetree and Weirick and Cpl. Bracy were seduced by Soviet women working for the KGB intelligence service.

Staff Sgt. Robert Stufflebeam, at one time the No. 2 Marine guard in Moscow, was charged earlier this month with three counts of violating rules against fraternizing with Soviet women.

As a result of the affair, the entire Marine contingents in Moscow and Leningrad are being replaced. Fifteen Marines arrived in Moscow Monday in the first wave of replacements for the 28-member force that will be questioned in Quantico about security failures.

On Soviet spying in Washington, Mr. Weinberger said on ABC's "Good Morning America" he did not know who was responsible for an early 1970s agreement that allowed the Soviets to build a new embassy on top of Mount Alto, off Wisconsin Avenue above Georgetown.

"I don't know who did it, but I wish they hadn't," Mr. Weinberger said. "It does give them [the Soviets] a commanding location, which will complicate our problems of preserving our own security here in our own capital in a way that shouldn't have happened."

President Reagan said earlier this month that the Soviets would not be allowed to occupy the new complex until security is improved at a new U.S. embassy complex in Moscow, which is believed to be riddled with Soviet listening devices.

However, FBI Director William Webster said last week that Soviet intelligence agents currently engage in electronic espionage from listening posts already positioned inside the Washington complex.

Mr. Webster, in confirmation hearings to be the next CIA director, declined to provide specific information about the Soviet spying. But he said FBI counterspies have detected large electronic communications equipment at the Mt. Alto site that is believed to be used by the Soviets for intercepting telephone

calls and other electronic messages in Washington.

Intelligence officials have said such "bulk interception" is sifted for valuable national security information by Soviet computers in Cuba.

In a related development, Mr. Sims said the Navy has recommended that Marine embassy guards undergo random polygraph (lie-detector) examinations in the future.

The recommendations are contained in a Navy study, Mr. Sims said, and have been forwarded to Mr. Weinberger and the State Department. The study includes proposals for improved training and selection of Marine guards as well as better psychological screening of Marine guard recruits.

Secretary of State George Shultz has opposed polygraph tests and last year threatened to resign if forced to comply with administration-wide plans for using the security and counterespionage tests.

At the State Department, chief spokesman Phyllis Oakley announced yesterday that the administration planned to launch wide-ranging security investigations of Marines, diplomats and embassy personnel stationed in the Soviet bloc.

"Lots of people will be interviewed. We are looking at everyone," Mrs. Oakley said. "There is no time limit on the investigations. They are going to be as thorough as they can."

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The State Department in recent weeks has come under fire from critics over lax security at U.S. embassies.

One former security official said former U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Arthur Hartman, who left his post last month, had sent numerous cables to the State Department vigorously opposing White House efforts to curb foreign spying.

The former official said Mr. Hartman, who last weekend acknowledged sending a 1984 cable critical of counterespionage efforts, was "backstopped" repeatedly by Mr. Shultz in opposing the anti-spy efforts.

● *Richard Beeston contributed to this report.*